



General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 March 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 32

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.71 and Add.1)]

57/295. Information and communication technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations on 8 September 2000,¹ in which Member States resolved to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with the recommendations contained in the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 7 July 2000,² are available to all,

Recalling also that the ministerial declaration called for a coherent, system-wide information and communication technologies strategy that would ensure coordination and synergy among programmes and activities of individual organizations of the system and transform it into a knowledge-based system of organizations,

Bearing in mind its resolution 57/238 of 20 December 2002 on the World Summit on the Information Society, in which it encouraged all relevant United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional institutions, to further their cooperation in and support to the preparatory process of the Summit,

Noting that information and communication technologies for development have been recognized as an important element in the outcomes of recent United Nations conferences and summits,

1. *Affirms* the need to use information and communication technologies as a strategic tool to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the development programmes and technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system;

¹ See resolution 55/2.

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/55/3/Rev.1)*, chap. III, para. 17.

2. *Emphasizes* the need for coordination and synergy between programmes and activities of the United Nations system and the crucial role that information and communication technologies can play in facilitating such coordination;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to work closely with organizations of the United Nations system and with the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to develop a comprehensive information and communication technologies strategy for the United Nations system, taking into account the following elements:

(a) Encouraging the system-wide application and use of information and communication technologies to strengthen the United Nations capacity to create, share and disseminate knowledge and to help to make the United Nations more efficient and effective in the delivery of services to Member States;

(b) Mainstreaming and integrating information and communication technologies more fully into development and technical cooperation activities of the organizations of the system;

(c) Building collaborative networks and communities of practice among organizations of the system;

(d) Developing, where appropriate, common platforms for services such as databases, documentation and meetings;

(e) Encouraging the use of information and communication technologies to promote the exchange of experiences and to enhance information-sharing among the organizations of the system and between the organizations and Member States;

(f) Developing comprehensive system-wide training programmes aimed at building the capacities of the system to take full advantage of information and communication technologies;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Information and communication technologies for development".

79th plenary meeting
20 December 2002



General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 March 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 33

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.69 and Add.1)]

57/296. Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Having considered the progress report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa",¹

Recalling its resolutions 53/92 of 7 December 1998, 54/234 of 22 December 1999, 55/217 of 21 December 2000 and 56/37 of 4 December 2001 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,

Recalling also chapter VII of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² which highlights the special needs of Africa,

Recalling further the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002³ and its resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s⁴ and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,⁵

Reaffirming that the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa⁶ must remain a high priority on the agenda of the United Nations system and Member States,

Underscoring the need to strengthen further the political will to ensure the required political, financial and technical support critical for the effective

¹ A/57/172.

² See resolution 55/2.

³ See resolution 57/2.

⁴ Resolution 46/151, annex.

⁵ A/57/304, annex.

⁶ A/52/871-S/1998/318.

implementation of the recommendations in all the areas included in the report of the Secretary-General,

Welcoming the commitment of African countries, as reaffirmed in the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to promote peace, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management in their respective countries,

Welcoming also the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa of the Security Council and of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict, within the framework of the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa";¹

2. *Notes with concern* that notwithstanding some progress made towards restoring peace and stability in the African region, the challenges of conflict prevention and post-conflict development remain daunting, and the progress in effectively implementing the recommendations in the peacemaking, economic, social and other areas as contained in the report of the Secretary-General⁶ remains slow and uneven;

3. *Urges* Member States, as well as the international community, to strengthen their efforts towards effectively implementing the recommendations in all the areas mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General;

4. *Decides* to include a sub-item entitled "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" under a single agenda item on the development of Africa, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", beginning at its fifty-eighth session;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue monitoring progress in the effective and timely implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa and to submit a comprehensive report on the sub-item to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

79th plenary meeting
20 December 2002



General Assembly

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5 March 2003

Fifty-seventh session

Agenda item 41 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.68 and Add.1)]

57/297. Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989, in which it proclaimed the period 1991–2000 the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, as adjusted subsequently by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/177 of 22 December 1992 to cover the period 1993–2002,

Recalling also its resolutions 54/203 of 22 December 1999 and 56/187 of 21 December 2001 on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Recalling further the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002¹ and resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s² and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,³

Recognizing that industrial growth is essential for sustained economic development in that it generates income and employment, thus improving standards of living and eradicating poverty, a key goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁴

Bearing in mind that Africa faces serious obstacles in the diversification of its economy, in particular, in industrialization,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;⁵
2. *Recognizes* the importance of industrialization to the sustained growth and accelerated development of Africa;
3. *Expresses disappointment* that, despite the first Industrial Development Decade for Africa in the 1980s and the Second Industrial Development Decade for

¹ See resolution 57/2.

² Resolution 46/151, annex.

³ A/57/304, annex.

⁴ See resolution 55/2.

⁵ A/57/175.

Africa (1993–2002), limited progress has been made in the industrialization of Africa;

4. *Decides* to bring the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa to a close, and calls upon the international community, including the United Nations system, to channel its support for Africa's industrialization effort within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;³

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include the topic of industrialization in Africa in his consolidated annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

*79th plenary meeting
20 December 2002*



General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 February 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 22 (I)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.72 and Add.1 and A/57/L.73)]

57/298. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the framework for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which was signed on 26 May 1993,¹ as well as its resolutions on cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling also the principles embodied in the Helsinki Final Act and in the declaration at the 1992 Helsinki Summit by the heads of State or Government of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of their understanding that the Conference is a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as such provides an important link between European and global security,²

Acknowledging the increasing contribution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security in its region through activities in early warning and preventive diplomacy, including through the activities of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as arms control and disarmament,

Recalling the Charter for European Security adopted at the Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in November 1999, which reaffirms the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region and as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Recalling also the special ties between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, as well as between that organization and the Asian Partners for Cooperation, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, which have been enhanced further in 2002,

¹ A/48/185, annex II, appendix.

² See A/47/361-S/24370, annex.

Underlining the continued importance of enhanced cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;³

2. *Commends* the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the relevant decisions and declarations adopted by the Tenth Ministerial Council at its meeting in Porto, Portugal, on 6 and 7 December 2002, in particular its Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism, which reaffirms the core lasting and timeless principles guiding the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in this field, the decision on implementing the organization's commitments and activities on combating terrorism, the Porto Ministerial Declaration, entitled "Responding to Change", which underlines the role of the organization in the evolving international security environment, its decision on the development of a strategy to address threats to security and stability in the twenty-first century, the decision on an annual security review conference, the Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings, the decision on tolerance and non-discrimination, the decision on electoral standards, the decision on enhancing the role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in economic and environmental dimensions, the decision on reviewing the role of the organization in the field of peacekeeping operations and the statements by the Ministerial Council on regional issues;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the further improvement of cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and its agencies and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including at the level of activities in the field;

4. *Welcomes*, in that context, the meetings of the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of the President of the United Nations Security Council with the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the participation of high-level United Nations representatives in meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

5. *Praises* the close cooperation between the institutions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in particular the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the relevant United Nations bodies, welcomes in this regard the active participation of high-level representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office on Drugs and Crime⁴ of the Secretariat in its annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, which paved the way for the documents adopted at the Tenth Ministerial Council in that field, and also welcomes the contribution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme to the 2002 Economic Forum of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

³ A/57/217.

⁴ Formerly known as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.

6. *Encourages* further efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to foster security and stability in its region through early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as through continued promotion of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and arms control and confidence- and security-building measures;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to promote in operational terms the concept of the Platform for Cooperative Security, adopted at the Summit in Istanbul in 1999, and encourages the continued development of modalities of cooperation between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations and institutions;

8. *Commends* the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the implementation of its Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism⁵ and of the Programme of Action adopted at the Bishkek International Conference on enhancing security and stability in Central Asia, held on 13 and 14 December 2001, whereby participating States pledged to reinforce and develop bilateral and multilateral cooperation among themselves, with the United Nations and with other international and regional organizations in order to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, welcomes the reports presented by the Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the Tenth Ministerial Council and to the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations on the activities of that organization to prevent and combat terrorism, encourages further enhancement of their cooperation in providing assistance to participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in implementing their international obligations in this field, and welcomes in that respect the convening, at the initiative of the Portuguese Chairmanship, of the High-Level Conference on Preventing and Combating Terrorism, held in Lisbon on 12 June 2002, which, in full recognition of the leading role of the United Nations in countering terrorism, sought to enhance cooperation among the various organizations involved;

9. *Notes* the continued process of reviewing the management and the working procedures of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe undertaken at the initiative of the Romanian chairmanship in 2001 and continued under the Portuguese chairmanship in 2002 with the goal of strengthening its efficiency on issues of security and cooperation in Europe and in countering threats and challenges to security and stability in its region;

10. *Acknowledges* the progress made in implementing the decisions to strengthen the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as a political forum, namely through a balanced approach in its three dimensions, and takes note in this respect of enhanced cooperation in the economic and environmental dimensions, welcoming in particular the recommendations of the 2002 Economic Forum on cooperation for the sustainable use and the protection of the quality of water and the recommendations of the seminar held in Paris on the socio-economic impact of disarmament;

11. *Commends* the adoption of new modalities for the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and welcomes the continued close cooperation between the

⁵ See Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe document MC(9).DEC/1, annex.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the Office on Drugs and Crime;

12. *Praises* the work done by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to develop its capacity to assist participating States wishing to strengthen their policing skills;

13. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to broaden dialogue with partners outside its area, such as the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation and Asian Partners for Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States, the African Union and those States bordering on the area of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and to exchange best practices and lessons learned in counter-terrorism efforts for application in its area;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the active involvement of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and its commitment to continue to contribute substantially to early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in the region, thereby fostering peace and stability in the area;

15. *Commends* the work of the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and of the authorities of that country to promote legislative reform and institution- and capacity-building, and notes with satisfaction their commitment to facilitate the consolidation of democracy, the strengthening of the rule of law, through in particular the training of a multi-ethnic police element in South Serbia, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; as well as the process of the return of refugees and internally displaced persons in the region;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contribution by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to implementing Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, as an essential part of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo, in particular for its substantial role in the preparation and organization of the Kosovo local election of 26 October 2002, in view of the consolidation of stability and prosperity in Kosovo on the basis of substantial autonomy, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, pending a final settlement in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999), as well as for its continued commitment to training a multi-ethnic, community-based Kosovo police service, building democratic institutions and promoting human rights;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to contribute to the implementation of the Framework Agreement concerning the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, concluded on 13 August 2001, in particular through its programmes of training and reform of the police forces, confidence-building and inter-ethnic relations, and commends the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for its contribution to the holding of peaceful and democratic elections on 15 September 2002;

18. *Commends* the work of the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to Bosnia and Herzegovina in accomplishing the transition in

the administration and conduct of the election process to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in compliance with the Dayton/Paris peace accords,⁶ and for the support given to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the preparation and conduct of general elections on 5 October 2002, which were held largely in line with international standards for democratic elections, as well as for its continued substantive support to the Property Law Implementation Plan process, which is due to be completed by 2003;

19. *Underlines* the importance of regional cooperation as a means of fostering good-neighbourly relations, stability and economic development, welcomes the implementation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as an important long-term and comprehensive initiative to promote good-neighbourly relations, stability and economic development, and welcomes the commitment of participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to contribute further to the goals of the Stability Pact;

20. *Expresses its deep concern* that in spite of the efforts undertaken by the Republic of Moldova and the mediators of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, no progress was achieved in 2002 towards negotiation of a comprehensive political settlement of the Transnistrian problem, based on full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, regrets that, notwithstanding all these efforts, the Transnistrian side continues to obstruct the negotiation process, welcomes the efforts made by the Russian Federation to fulfil its commitments undertaken at the summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe held in Istanbul in 1999, and also welcomes the commitment of the Russian Federation to complete the withdrawal of Russian forces as early as possible and its intention to do so by 31 December 2003, provided necessary conditions are in place;

21. *Supports* the efforts of the Portuguese chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Government of Belarus to find a mutually acceptable decision regarding the field presence in Belarus of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

22. *Welcomes* the activities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to promote the peace process in the Tshkhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, namely the results achieved in the meeting at Castelo Branco, Portugal, and the steps to reduce the quantities of small arms and light weapons in that region, as well as the work of the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to Georgia in facilitating a number of projects aimed at involving the local community in that process, and, in accordance with the commitments made at the Istanbul summit, supports the desire of the parties to complete negotiations regarding the duration and modalities of the functioning of the Russian military bases at Batumi and Abkhalkalaki and other Russian military facilities within the territory of Georgia, and takes note of the transparent visit of the military experts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to the Gudauta base in Abkhazia, Georgia, which was a milestone on the way to a speedy and legal transfer of the Gudauta facilities;

⁶ General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the annexes thereto, initialled in Dayton, United States of America, on 21 November 1995 and signed in Paris on 14 December 1995 (A/50.790-S/1995/999).

23. *Appreciates* the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in bringing forward a peaceful solution of the conflict in Abkhazia, in particular the active participation of the representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the negotiations led by the United Nations, but regrets that no substantial progress has been noted in overcoming the precarious stalemate that remains on the core issue of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, the future status of Abkhazia within the State of Georgia, and welcomes the readiness of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to further its projects in Abkhazia in the human dimension;

24. *Commends* the work of the border monitoring operation of the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to Georgia along the border between Georgia and the Chechen and Ingushet Republics of the Russian Federation as a significant contribution to stability and confidence in the region;

25. *Notes with satisfaction* the increased efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to promote cooperation with the five participating States of Central Asia, as well as regional cooperation among these States, in all dimensions of security, in particular in the fight against terrorism, as well as in the sphere of economic and environmental issues, encourages continued close cooperation between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations and other international actors in this region, and welcomes the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to promote implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the Bishkek International Conference on enhancing security and stability in Central Asia, held under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, including the holding of a regional expert meeting on combating trafficking in small arms and light weapons in Central Asia, as well as the readiness of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to assist in addressing specific issues related to the process of democratic reform, institution building and the reform of the law enforcement agencies in the five participating States in Central Asia;

26. *Fully supports* the activities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict in and around the Nagorny-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and welcomes cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in this regard;

27. *Remains deeply concerned* at the failure to achieve a settlement of the Nagorny-Karabakh conflict despite the intensified dialogue between the parties and the active support of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, reaffirms that the prompt resolution of that protracted conflict will contribute to lasting peace, security, stability and cooperation in the South Caucasus region, reiterates the importance of continuing the peace dialogue, calls upon the sides to continue their efforts to achieve an early resolution of the conflict based on norms and principles of international law, encourages the parties to explore further measures that would enhance mutual confidence and trust, welcomes the commitment of the parties to the ceasefire and to achieving a peaceful and comprehensive settlement, also welcomes in particular the continued meetings of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan and of their special representatives, and encourages the parties to continue their efforts, with the active support of the Co-Chairmen, aimed at reaching a just and enduring settlement;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in implementation of the present resolution.

*79th plenary meeting
20 December 2002*



General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 42

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.67)]

57/299. Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and the fulfilment of the targets set therein are integrally linked to the attainment of the development goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹

Recalling its resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001, entitled "Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS", in which it decided to devote sufficient time and at least one full day of the annual session of the General Assembly to review and debate a report of the Secretary-General,

Recognizing that 2003 represents the first year that the time-bound commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment are due to be met, and that the other targets are to be met by 2005 and 2010,

Taking into account the critical role of civil society at all levels in the response to HIV/AIDS, in particular people living with HIV/AIDS,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,² including the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Decides* to convene a day of high-level plenary meetings devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of its twenty-sixth special session and the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment, to be held immediately following the general debate at its fifty-eighth session on a date to be decided by the General Assembly during its fifty-seventh session;

3. *Decides also* that statements in the debate in the plenary meetings should not exceed five minutes each;

¹ See resolution 55/2.

² A/57/227 and Corr.1.

4. *Decides further* that an informal interactive panel discussion will be held in parallel with the afternoon plenary meeting and that it will have as its theme "Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: from policy to practice - progress achieved, lessons learned and best practices"; the Chairman of the informal panel will orally present a summary of the discussions in the informal panel to the General Assembly at the end of the debate in plenary meeting;

5. *Decides* that, in addition to Member States, observers, representatives of the entities of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and non-governmental members of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, an invitation to the informal interactive panel discussion will be extended to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and not more than fifteen civil society representatives of international, national or community organizations, including those representing and working for people living with HIV/AIDS, and the private sector, including pharmaceutical companies, and requests the President of the General Assembly, following appropriate consultations with Member States, to draw up the list of those civil society representatives, on the basis of the recommendations of the Joint Programme and taking into account the principle of geographical representation, and to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a no-objection basis for a final decision by the Assembly on participation;

6. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to finalize any outstanding organizational matters in consultation with the Member States;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive and analytical report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment, with a view to identifying problems and constraints and making recommendations on action needed to make further progress, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, and in this context underlines the importance of the continuing refinement of the core indicators developed by the Joint Programme and approved by its Programme Coordinating Board;

8. *Decides* that the arrangements outlined in paragraph 5 above shall in no way create a precedent for other similar events;

9. *Decides also* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS".

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20 December 2002